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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC//DDI/OEA//
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RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DB-Z//
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0677
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7128
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 7188
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RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 5499
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RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 7634
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SUBJECT: SEOUL - PRESS BULLETIN; JANUARY 11, 2010

TOP HEADLINES

Chosun Ilbo
School Chiefs Face Tough Evaluation; Underperforming Principals Will
Be Denied Reappointment and Face Demotion

JoongAng Ilbo
Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency Chief Vows to Make Public All
Candidates for Police Officer Promotion on the Internet

Dong-a Ilbo, Hankook Ilbo, Hankyoreh Shinmun,
Segye Ilbo, Seoul Shinmun, All TVs
Political Turmoil Looms Large over Sejong City;
ROKG to Unveil Sejong City Revision Plan Today,
with Opposition Parties and Pro-Park Geun-hye Faction
Strongly Opposing It

DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

The ROKG has chosen a new site for ROK reconstruction workers and
troops to be deployed to Afghanistan. The site is a state-owned plot
located north of Charikar, capital of Parwan Province. (Dong-a,
Segye, Seoul, KBS)

A Korean businessman, after being punished in the ROK for bribing
U.S. public officials, was recently arrested and received a prison
sentence on the same charges in the U.S., sparking a controversy
over double punishment. (Hankook)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

According to ROKG and EU diplomatic sources, on Dec. 22 of last
year, the EU slapped sanctions on key North Korean government
officials and companies related to the North's nuclear program. Jang
Song-taek, a brother-in-law of leader Kim Jong-il, and Kim
Yong-chun, minister of the People's Armed Forces, were among 13
individuals targeted by the EU. (All)

MEDIA ANALYSIS

President Obama's Remarks on Improving Security
Carrying the identical headline, "The Buck Stops with Me," most ROK media on Saturday (Jan. 9) led their international news sections with reports quoting President Barack Obama as saying in a Jan. 7 address regarding the attempted terror attack on Christmas Day: "For ultimately, the buck stops with me. As President, I have a solemn responsibility to protect our nation and our people. And when the system fails, it is my responsibility."

Coverage was mostly straightforward. Conservative Chosun Ilbo noted an AP report saying that it is very unprecedented for President Obama, who has denounced President Bush's "war on terror" as an exaggerated expression, to state that the U.S. is "at war against al Qaeda." Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo's sub-head read: "Obama Gives More Weight to Improving System than to Reprimanding Those Responsible." Moderate Hankook Ilbo's sub-head read: "Obama Rejects Calls for Firings of Top Spy Chiefs over Security Breakdown... He Will Increase Investments in Homeland Security and Aviation Security, Including \$1 Billion in New Systems and Technologies"

-N. Korea

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SEOUL 00000035 002 OF 002

brother-in-law of leader Kim Jong-il, and Kim Yong-chun, minister of the People's Armed Forces, were among 13 individuals targeted by the EU.

STEPHENS